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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 4. Peaceful uses of outer space

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 June 1997, the Committee considered section 4, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Delegations expressed support for and attached great importance to the programme of activities of the section. Many delegations appreciated the concrete results achieved by the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its efficient use of resources. Several delegations stressed the important role of the activities in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, and the technology gap between developed and developing nations. Those delegations indicated, therefore, that the political, legal, scientific and technical assistance components of the activities benefited all countries. Another delegation stressed the importance and risks involved in the use of outer space and indicated that a recent incident in that connection pointed to the need for the active participation of Member States in the peaceful uses of outer space programme.

3. Some delegations, while supporting the programme of work of the Office, queried the resources proposed. Those delegations felt that no substantial

increase should be proposed under the section, while other delegations expressed support for the resources proposed under the section. Some delegations pointed out that the resources proposed for 1998-1999 were at approximately the same level as the initial appropriations for 1996-1997 and at the level of expenditure during 1994-1995. Accordingly, the Office had instituted measures to enhance efficiency further so as to ensure the effective implementation of its work programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly approval of the programme narrative of section 4, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.